

Jeffrey Prouty
3545 Joy Road
Occidental CA 95465

Aug 28th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

We live near Occidental, California. Due to our remote, mountainous terrain we have no cell phone service and getting internet service has always been problematic. Long after our more urban neighbors had broadband, we were stuck with dial-up.

A small company tried to provide line-of-sight radio service but it soon failed because of too much interference in the area. We then tried satellite but it was expensive and suffered from lag and data caps. We switched to Sonic.Net's DSL service over our copper phone line which has worked well but is limited to a speed of 6 mbps. Finally our neighborhood got a grant to install a fiber network under Race Communications and so far (for about two weeks) it's been great!

None of this innovation, which has provided us increasingly improved internet service over the last 20 years, would have been possible without the freedom of small companies like Sonic and Race to step into a rural area like ours and innovate. We have our fiber connection now but there are many other small, rural communities like ours that deserve the same chance at broadband that the small, local, competitive carriers gave us.

Please don't cut out the "little guys." Please do not approve the USTelecom petition.

Jeffrey Prouty